PROCEDURAL GUIDE

FOR THE

NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLANNING LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT PROGRAM



Department of Fish and Game Resources Agency State of California

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page
INTRODUCTION1
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA1
GENERAL GUIDELINES1
THE REVIEW PROCESS
ELIGIBLE PROJECTS2
PART I CONCEPT PROPOSAL APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES4
PART II FULL PROPOSAL APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES5
IMPORTANT PROVISIONS FOR ALL PROPOSAL APPLICATIONS
PART III PROJECT ADMINISTRATION
APPENDIX A - CONCEPT PROPOSAL APPLICATION & FULL PROPOSAL APPLICATION 12 APPENDIX B - ELIGIBLE COSTS AND SAMPLE BUDGETS

NATURAL COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PLAN LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANT APPLICATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has prepared this guide to assist public and non-profit entities in applying for and administering State grants from DFG's Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Local Assistance Grant (LAG) Program. DFG offers these grants to eligible applicants on an annual basis for high priority tasks urgently needed to implement approved NCCPs, or NCCPs anticipated to be approved within 12 months of grant application. High priority tasks are identified by the plan participants and DFG throughout the preceding year. Funding for the LAG Program varies from year to year and is based on the availability of General Fund money and approval of the Budget Act each fiscal year.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible applicants include local jurisdictions that have a DFG-approved NCCP, or that anticipate having an approved NCCP within 12 months of grant application. Public institutions, including state universities and colleges, and non-profit entities [501(c)(3) organizations] that have shown an interest in assisting with the implementation of NCCPs are eligible to receive grant funds.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Please read these guidelines carefully. Proposals submitted must be in full compliance with all stated requirements to be considered for funding.

Applicants are encouraged to work closely with local DFG, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service staff in the planning and development of proposals for high priority tasks well in advance of proposal deadlines. See Appendix E for a list of DFG contacts.

The proposal process has three parts: (Part I) Concept Proposal Submission, (Part II) Full Proposal Application and Submission, and (Part III) Project Administration.

Funding of the proposals submitted to the LAG Program is subject to availability of funds and approval of the Budget Act each fiscal year. Grants for grant awards cannot be in place until the following March, so please plan project timelines accordingly. Grant funds may be encumbered for up to three years from July 1. Therefore, all grant funds must be expended and grants must end by March 30 of the third year.

If selected the project applicant shall comply with all applicable state laws, rules, regulations and local ordinances specifically including but not limited to environmental, procurement, and safety laws, rules, regulations and ordinances.

Projects legally required as mitigation by a regulatory agency as a condition for a permit will not be funded under this program. However, a proposal that is in addition to any required mitigation, and addresses a high priority task for implementation of the plan, is be eligible.

If the project is selected for funding and the project applicant fails to perform in accordance with the provisions of the enacted agreement, DFG retains the right, at its sole discretion, to interrupt or suspend the work for which the monies are supplied or to terminate the grant.

THE REVIEW PROCESS

Proposals are developed in coordination with Regional DFG staff; all proposals are submitted by the due date to the Habitat Conservation Planning Branch (HCPB) (per the instructions found in the application package). They are then distributed to the appropriate Regional staff for a coordinated internal review process by both Regional and HCPB staff. Proposals are evaluated and scored based on benefits to: the conservation of the grantee's NCCP covered species; conservation of biological diversity; and the implementation of the NCCP. The primary factors that will be taken into consideration during this evaluation are: critical need with regard to the plan's priorities; value gained relative to the cost; status of the NCCP planning effort; and the extent of local cost share of the task. In addition to the primary factors, special consideration will be given to projects that meet NCCP objectives and/or the specific plan requirements; provide a partnership opportunity; provide an opportunity for application of the information or product to other planning efforts; or that allow the continuation of an ongoing project. Projects must produce a finished and usable product or action along with a Final Report.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Grants are available for urgent tasks associated with the implementation of approved NCCPs, or NCCPs that are anticipated to be approved within 12 months of grant application. Routine, on-going management activities are not eligible. Types of projects that are eligible for funding include the following:

Project Type	Description
Management	Immediate management actions on newly acquired NCCP preserve lands
Restoration/Enhancement	Restoration or enhancement of habitats or species populations on NCCP preserve lands
Monitoring	Development and implementation of biological monitoring programs identified in an NCCP including establishing monitoring methods, monitoring plots, data collection, data analysis, and data management
Acquisition	Acquisition by fee title or conservation easement acceptable to DFG of land that is an essential part of an NCCP preserve system
Preserve Plans	Development and implementation of preserve management plans including preserve data tracking systems
Other	Other priority tasks identified by the applicant and acceptable to DFG needed to ensure effective implementation of the NCCP

PARTI

CONCEPT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Concept Proposal Due Date:

Due dates will vary from year to year, and FY 2011-2012 concept proposals are due on November 1, 2011. Please work with your local DFG regional representative to develop your concept proposal (See Appendix E).

Where to Send:

Concept proposals should be submitted electronically by the applicant to *jchinn@dfg.ca.gov*.

Notification:

Applicants will be notified whether or not their concept proposal has been approved, deferred or not approved. Those that are approved will be asked to develop a full proposal application package (See Part II).

PART II

FULL PROPOSAL APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

Proposal Due Date:

Due dates will vary from year to year, and FY 2011-2012 full proposals are due on November 10, 2011 by 5pm.

Application Package:

To access the full proposal application package please go to the following web site:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp/grants.html

Where to Send:

The applicant must provide **one electronic copy** in Word format. Full proposal applications should be emailed to *jchinn@dfg.ca.gov*. Applications will be distributed to the appropriate Regional DFG representative working on the NCCP (See Appendix E).

Important Provisions for All Proposal Applications

A complete proposal package will include the following:

- Complete application form (Appendix A)
- Complete and accurate budgets (Appendix B)
- Supporting material and required forms (Appendix C)

Complete Application Form (Appendix A):

Project Description - Project proposals must include a detailed description of the project with clearly defined goals and objectives, how each objective and associated tasks will be addressed, a detailed timeline, and the expected results. Project descriptions must also include information on where the proposed project is located, who will be conducting the work, when the work will be done, and the expected work products or deliverables. There must also be a clear and understandable link between proposals and the NCCP. The project description must also include an explanation of why the project requires urgent implementation.

Descriptions must be sufficiently detailed regarding overall work proposed and include report timeframes and costs of each proposed task listed separately in order for DFG to:

1) write a grant with measurable and quantifiable objectives, and 2) perform a cost analysis of proposed work during the proposal evaluation process.

Complete and Accurate Budgets (Appendix B):

Project proposals must include a detailed budget as shown in the application form. Cost analysis of the proposed project will include all project costs. Total project cost used in the analysis will include the total amount requested from available funds under the LAG Program and any cash or in-kind cost share from any other funding source.

DFG recognizes that project proposals for the same project type may vary in cost due to the size of the project, statewide variation in costs for heavy equipment and labor, or a variety of other factors. Applicants must justify project costs in the project description. Project cost analysis will be based on costs for similar projects that have been implemented as well as on an assessment of proposed costs by NCCP staff.

The proposal budget(s) should specify the source and dollar amount of any proposed cost-share. Project proposals should provide information specifically identifying any funding match requirements from a federal source or other entity. Proposals with cost share are eligible for additional points during the review process.

The proposal budget must include a cost breakdown by tasks if there is more than one task, as well as a detailed line item budget for the entire project, including a breakdown of costs for each paid position. The budgets should include the appropriate eligible costs and matching funds as shown in the instructions and examples in Appendix B.

Supporting Material and Required Forms (Appendix C):

After applicants are notified of funding awards, a grant will be prepared and executed. The applicable forms described in this section are for information purposes only. When applicants are notified that their project has been approved for funding, they shall be required to complete, sign, and return the forms listed below if not already on file. However, it is recommended that these forms be provided with the full application package to expedite the grant process.

- Authorizing Resolution from governing body If the applicant is a public entity, such
 as a Resource Conservation District (RCD), city, county, water agency, etc. that has
 a governing body, then a resolution of project approval from the governing body will
 be a requirement to enter into an agreement. It is suggested that the governing
 body be made aware of the proposal and be prepared to submit the resolution when
 returning the signed grant. Nonprofit organizations are not required to provide a
 resolution. A sample resolution is provided in Appendix C.
- Payee Data Record form (STD. 204) The State of California is required to file reportable payment information with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) in accordance with Section 6041 of the IRS code and Section 18802 of the State's Revenue and Taxation Code. This form can be found at http://www.osp.dgs.ca.gov/StandardForms/Fill+and+Print+Standard+eForms.htm

- Federal Taxpayer ID Number
- A Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement form (STD. 19) will be required for grants of \$5,000.00 or more per Title 2, California Code of Regulations, Section 8113. Federal and State agencies and public entities such as resource conservation districts are excluded from this requirement. This form can be found at http://www.osp.dgs.ca.gov/StandardForms/Fill+and+Print+Standard+eForms.htm
- A Drug-Free Workplace Certification (STD. 21) will be required for all grants regardless of grant dollar amount. Federal and State agencies and public entities such as Resource Conservation Districts are excluded from this requirement. This form can be found at http://www.osp.dgs.ca.gov/StandardForms/Fill+and+Print+Standard+eForms.htm
- Non-profit applicants will be required to submit a 501(c)(3) Certification, a copy of the Articles of Incorporation, and a copy of the Bylaws will be required.

PART III

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

General Grant Process and Timelines

The following grant process and timelines are for general informational purposes. For current fiscal year application procedures and deadlines please go to the following web site:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/habcon/nccp/grants.html

I. Concept Proposals

- Year-round: Applicants work with local DFG staff and federal agency staff to develop concept proposals that address high priority tasks urgently needed to implement NCCP plans.
- Mid-June: Regional staff will notify qualified applicants that LAG Program will be accepting concept proposals for the current fiscal year and direct them to the web site.
- Mid-July: Applicants will submit their concept proposals electronically to appropriate Regional staff for review. If the concept proposal is complete, then Regional staff and Habitat Conservation Planning Branch (HCPB) staff will review the concept proposals.
- Mid-August: Review of concept proposals will be completed by mid-August. HCPB and Regional staff will determine which concept proposals will be selected for development into full proposals.
- Late-August: HCPB will notify applicants whether their concept proposal has been approved, deferred until the next funding cycle, or not approved. Those that are approved will be asked to complete and submit a full application package.

II. Full Proposal Application Package

- Early-September: Applicants will submit their full applications electronically to HCPB in early September for review.
- Late-September: Review will be completed by late-September.
- Early-October: Regional staff will begin grant preparation and HCPB may review draft grants to ensure grant deadlines are incorporated.

Early-November: Grant sent to applicant, applicant returns signed grant to Regional office. The Regional office sends grant documents electronically to HCPB as well as a hard copy of the grant with all signatures.

March: Estimated start date for projects.

III. Grant Administration

Upon grant approval the DFG Grant Manager notifies the Grantee that work may commence on the project. Grantee may submit progress payment requests to the DFG Grant Manager not more than once a month. If desired, the Grantee may submit a single request for lump sum payment upon completion of the project. If progress payments are requested, DFG will reimburse 90% of all expenses upon receipt of a Request for Progress Payment.

The DFG Grant Manager reviews and approves invoices for payment, maintains the grant documentation, and monitors the grant to ensure compliance with all grant provisions.

Grantee completes the project within 3 years from July 1 of the grant year and submits final deliverables, including a Final Report, and payment requests. The DFG Grant Manager makes a final project inspection and authorizes final payment (for 10% retention). In order to have sufficient time to process final payments and to close out the grant, all grants must have an end date of no later than March 30 (e.g., projects receiving 2012 funding must be completed and final invoices received by March 30, 2015). Invoices received after this date are not guaranteed payment.

DFG may perform an audit of completed project.

Grant Amendments

Grant amendments will be allowed for changes to the scope of work or for time extensions within the 3 year window if necessary.

Scope of Work

A Grantee wishing to change the scope of an approved project (a modification of the task, not an increase in grant funds) shall submit the proposed change in writing to the DFG Grant Manager for approval. If the proposed change is submitted after a formal grant has been established between DFG and the Grantee, a formal grant amendment will be required.

Time Extensions

A request for a time extension and its justification must be submitted in writing to the DFG Grant Manager at least 60 days prior to the grant end date. DFG will determine whether the circumstances warrant a time extension, and if warranted, may approve the extension through a formal grant amendment. Due to fiscal restrictions however, grants cannot be extended beyond March 30 of the third fiscal year.

Payment of Grant Funds

All payments will be made by DFG to the Grantee on a reimbursement basis; advance payment will not be issued. At the time of grant preparation, the Grantee can choose to receive progress payments or to be paid in a lump sum upon completion of the project. If progress payments are desired, each Request for Payment must be accompanied by a written description of the Grantee's performance under the agreement since the time the previous such report was prepared. DFG will reimburse the Grantee 90% of their incurred costs, and will withhold 10% pending satisfactory completion of all grant tasks. The remaining 10% will be reimbursed after project completion and upon receipt of a Request for 10% Retention. For lump sum payments, a single Request for Lump Sum Payment shall be submitted upon completion of all grant tasks. Appendix D contains Payment Request Information.

Grantee should allow four to six weeks to receive payment after submitting a request for payment.

Please note that final invoices for the project must be received by DFG by March 30 of the third year.

Accounting Requirements

The Grantee shall maintain an accounting system that accurately reflects fiscal transactions, with the necessary controls and safeguards. This system shall provide an audit trail, including original source documents such as receipts, progress payments, invoices, time cards, etc. The system shall also provide accounting data so the total cost of each individual project can be readily determined. These records shall be retained for a period of three years after final payment is made by the state. AVOID AUDIT EXCEPTIONS - KEEP ACCURATE RECORDS.

State Audit

After completion of the project, the State may audit the project records. The purpose of the audit is to verify that project expenditures were properly documented. The audit may be requested by the state after the final payment request has been received, all project transactions have been completed, and the Grantee has made the necessary payments.

If your project is selected for audit, you will be contacted at least 30 days in advance. The audit should include all books, papers, accounts, documents, or other records of the Grantee, as they relate to the project for which State funds were granted. Projects may be audited at any time up to three years after project completion.

To expedite the audit, the recipient shall have the project records, including the source documents and cancelled warrants, readily available. The Grantee shall also provide an employee having knowledge of the project and the accounting procedure or system to assist the state auditor. The Grantee shall provide a copy of any document, paper, record, or the like requested by the state auditor.

All project records must be retained by the Grantee for a period of not less than one year after the State audit or final disposition of any disputed audit findings.

APPENDIX A

Concept Proposal

Please work with your local DFG regional representative to develop a project concept proposal by November 1, 2011.

APPENDIX B

Eligible Costs and Sample Budgets

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Only project-related costs associated with an eligible project activity incurred during the project performance period specified in the grant agreement may be funded. All such costs must be supported by appropriate invoices, purchase orders, canceled warrants, and other records. An example cost estimate is provided in Appendix B.

- 1. <u>Personal services</u> Services of the Grantee's employees directly engaged in project execution are eligible costs. These costs must be computed according to the Grantee's prevailing wage or salary scales, and may include fringe benefit costs such as vacations, sick leave, social security contributions, etc. that are customarily charged to the recipient's various projects. Costs charged to the project must be computed on actual time spent on a project, and supported by time and attendance records describing the work performed on the project. Overtime costs may be allowed under the recipient's established policy, provided that the regular work time was devoted to the same project.
- Consultant services Costs of consultant services necessary for the project are eligible; if there are multiple consultant employees, separately list their titles, hourly rate and number of hours worked.
- 3. Equipment Equipment owned by the Grantee may be charged to the project for each use. Equipment use charges must be made in accordance with the Grantee's normal accounting practices. The equipment rental rates published by the State Department of Transportation may be used as a guide. If the Grantee's equipment is used, a report or source document must describe the work performed, indicate the hours used, relate the use to the project, and be signed by the operator and supervisor.
 - Equipment may be leased, rented, or purchased, whichever is most economical. Any equipment and any nonexpendable materials, supplies, or property of any kind purchased from State funds under the terms of the grant agreements, and not fully consumed in the performance of the agreements, may become the property of the State or disposed of pursuant to instruction from the State at the termination of the agreement. Equipment is generally defined as all moveable articles of nonexpendable property that have a value of \$500 or more and a useful life of four years or more.
- 4. <u>Miscellaneous supplies and materials</u> Supplies and materials may be purchased for a specific project.
- Miscellaneous expenses Expenses such as communications (e.g., telephone, postage), printing, and transportation costs (not to exceed rates established by the Department of Personal Administration) are eligible costs.

- 6. <u>Acquisition</u> Costs of acquiring real property are eligible and may include the purchase price of the property, appraisals, surveys, preliminary title reports, escrow fees, and title insurance fees.
- 7. Overhead Indirect costs, usually calculated as a percentage of the direct costs, are eligible. Generally, equipment is not subject to overhead, as it involves a one-time outlay of funds.

SAMPLE LINE ITEM BUDGET

Personal Services

Staff Salaries Researcher I (250 hrs @ \$28.00/hr) Field Assistant @ (200 hrs. @ \$10.00/hr) Data Clerk (100 hrs @ \$8.00/hr)	\$ 14,000 \$ 4,000 \$ 1,600
Staff Benefits Researcher I @ 20% Field Assistant @ 20% Data Clerk @ 15%	\$ 2,800 \$ 800 \$ 240
Total Personal Services	\$ 23,440
General Expenses	
Travel (Mileage @ \$0.44/mile) Miscellaneous Office Supplies/Expenses (Including photocopies, postage, etc.)	\$ 500 \$ 1,000
Total Operating Expenses & Equipment	\$ 1,500
Subcontracting (Consultant Services)	\$ 3,000
Overhead @ 15% of direct costs	\$ 4,191
TOTAL	\$ 32,131

SAMPLE TASK BUDGET

TASK	AMOUNT
Task 1 Perform baseline species monitoring to test sampling methodology	\$10,400
Task 2 First six-month period of sampling Initial model development	\$6,000 \$5,600
Task 3 Second six-month period of sampling Final model calibration	\$6,000 \$4,800
Task 4 Project monitoring and evaluation	\$1,300
Task 5 Draft Final Report Final Report	\$1,500 <u>\$2,000</u>
TOTAL	\$37,600

Note: If you submit a task budget, you must also complete and submit a line item budget.

APPENDIX C

Required Forms

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Resolution No:		

RESOLUTION OF (GOVERNING BODY OF THE GRANTEE) AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS FOR (PROJECT NAME)

WHEREAS, certain local assistance grant funds are made available annually on a competitive basis by the California Department of Fish and Game for Natural Community Conservation Planning (NCCP) Program urgent implementation tasks; and

WHEREAS, the grants are awarded pursuant to guidelines established by the California Department of Fish and Game for determination of project eligibility for funds; and

WHEREAS, said procedures established by the California Department of Fish and Game require the Grantee to certify by resolution the approval to apply for, and accept grant funds and provide authorization to enter into an agreement with the California Department of Fish and Game to implement urgent activities related to the NCCP Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the (GRANTEE) approves the filing of an application for local assistance for the above project(s) in the amount of (DOLLAR AMOUNT).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the (GRANTEE) appoints the (DESIGNATED POSITION, not person occupying position) as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project(s).

STANDARD FORMS:

Payee Data Record form (STD. 204) http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/osp/pdf/std204.pdf

Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement form (STD. 19) http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/osp/pdf/std019.pdf

A Drug-Free Workplace Certification form (STD. 21) http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/osp/pdf/std021.pdf

APPENDIX D

Payment Request Information

The invoice shall contain the following information:

- 1. The word "Invoice" should appear in a prominent location at the top of the page(s);
- 2. Printed name of the Contractor;
- 3. Business address of the Contractor including P.O. Box, City, State, and Zip Code;
- 4. Name of the Region/Division of the Department of Fish and Game being billed (i.e., the Grant Manager and address as specified in the grant);
- 5. The date of the invoice and the time period covered;
- 6. The grant number upon which the claim is based, and;
- 7. An itemized account of the services for which DFG is being billed. Include all of the following:
 - a. The time period covered by the invoice (i.e., the term "from" and "to");
 - b. A description of the services performed;
 - c. The method of computing the amount due based on grant provisions (e.g., lump sum or line item budget/cost reimbursement method see description below):

Lump sum method

Upon satisfactory performance, the State agrees to pay the Contractor on a lump sum basis for all work described herein for the total specified amount.

Or

Line item budget or cost reimbursement method

Progress payments will be made by the State to the Contractor, in arrears, upon receipt of an itemized invoice showing the time period covered and the work items accomplished. The invoice must be itemized using the categories and following the format of the budget contained in the grant. The **10% retention** amount (i.e., 10% of total) must be clearly identified and subtracted from the total amount due (d).

- d. The total amount due. This should be in a prominent location in the lower right-hand portion of the last page and clearly distinguished from other figures or computations appearing on the invoice; the total amount due shall include all costs incurred by the Contractor under the terms of this agreement; and
- e. The original signature of the Contractor (not required of established firms or entities using preprinted letterhead invoices

APPENDIX E

DFG Contact Information

Northern Region Headquarters	530-225-2300
601 Locust; Redding, CA 96001	
Counties: Del Norte, Humboldt, Lassen, Mendocino, Modoc, Shasta, Siskiyou,	
Curt Babcock, Program Manager (cbabcock@dfg.ca.gov)	530-225-2740
Bay Delta Region Headquarters	707-944-5500
7329 Silverado Trail; P.O. Box 47; Yountville, CA 94599	
Counties: Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, Contra Costa, Alameda, Santa Clara,	Santa Cruz, San Mateo,
San Francisco	
Scott Wilson, Program Manager (swilson@dfg.ca.gov)	707-744-5584
Liam Davis, Sr. Environmental Scientist (<u>Idavis@dfg.ca.gov</u>)	707-944-5529
North Central Region Headquarters	707-358-2900
1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670	
Counties: Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, N	Nevada Placer Plumas
Sacramento, San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba	torada, i lacci, i lamac,
Kent Smith, Program Manager (ksmith@dfg.ca.gov)	916-358-2382
Jeff Drongesen, Sr. Environmental Scientist (jdronges@dfg.ca.gov)	
och brongesen, or. Environmentar ocientist (jaronges e aig.oa.gov)	310 330 2313
Central Region Headquarters	559-243-4005 x151
1234 Shaw Avenue, Fresno, CA 93710	
Counties: Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Monterey, San Beni	ito. San Luis Obispo.
Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne	10, 0411 =410 01010,00,
Julie Vance, Program Manager (<u>jvance@dfg.ca.gov</u>)	559-243-4005
Annee Ferranti, Sr. Environmental Scientist (aferranti@dfg.ca.gov	559-243-4014
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South Coast Region Headquarters	858-467-4201
4949 Viewridge Avenue; San Diego, CA 92123	
Counties: Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura	
Steve Juarez, Program Manager (sjuarez@dfg.ca.gov)	858-467-4212
Dave Mayer, Sr. Environmental Scientist (dmayer@dfg.ca.gov)	
<u>amajo, an amananananananananananananananananan</u>	
Inland Desert Region Headquarters	909-484-0167
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220, Ontario, CA 91764	
Counties: Imperial, Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino	
Kim Nicol, Regional Manager (knicol@dfg.ca.gov)	760-200-9178
David Elms, Program Manager (delms@dfg.ca.gov)	
Resource Management and Policy Division – Habitat Conservation Branch	916-653-4875
1416 9 th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814	
Brenda Johnson, Program Manager (bjohnson@dfg.ca.gov)	916-653-0835
Jeanne Wetzel Chinn, Environmental Scientist (jchinn@dfg.ca.gov)	916-651-3123
Coamo Tronzo Cimin, Environmental Colombit (John Trouglou, gov)	0.00010120